



## AGENT WRIGHT'S REPORT.

### Radical Legislation—Abolition of Tribal Court.

Secretary Hitchcock has received the annual report of special agent Wright, representative of the interior department in the Indian Territory at Muskogee. It is very voluminous, comprising sixty closely written pages and covering the year's operation in the territory exhaustively. The report is particularly interesting by reason of the recommendations for new legislation submitted by the special agent, whose recommendations are usually adhered to by the secretary of the interior. The Indian office has made a careful examination of special recommendations for legislation by congress and has concurred in them in a strong letter to the secretary of the interior. The recommendations in question are as follows:

#### RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEW LEGISLATION DESIRABLE.

"Being directed to state what legislation I consider necessary to properly execute the provisions of the act of congress approved June 28, 1898, as appears from the existing condition in the territory, I have the honor to submit the following:

"It appears by treaty that all mineral land, other than coal and asphalt, is not reserved from allotment in the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations; therefore, to avoid complication later it would appear desirable that no leases other than coal and asphalt be made in such nations, though the treaty provides leases shall include all mineral.

"That steps be taken to secure a uniform system of taxes or permits from non-citizens and others to trade, introduce stock etc., and non-citizens to reside within the limits of the five tribes, to be collected by the department and applied as a common school fund to all, which is much needed, and for which some provision for non-citizens is essential.

"That the advisability of establishing a military post and government penitentiary within the limits of the Indian Territory be considered.

"Also, the establishment of an insane asylum. Reports from different officials of the five tribes show there are a considerable number of insane persons.

"Some legislation is desired concerning the laying out and working of public roads. Under the present system of allotting there appears to be no provision made for such, and much complaint has been and is repeatedly being made to this office that citizens selecting allotments fence up existing roads, thereby seriously inconveniencing the traveling public and carrying of the mail.

"It is also desirable that congress be asked to apply the 'Estray' laws of Arkansas as set forth in chapter LVIII, entitled 'Estrays,' of Mansfield Digest of the statutes of the state of Arkansas, to the Indian Territory, and that the poll tax of said state also be made to apply to incorporated towns in the Indian Territory, together with a law as to qualifications of legal voters and prohibiting persons convicted of felonies from voting."

CHEROKEE AND CREEK WARRANTS. In discussing the warrants issued by the various Indian tribes,

Mr. Wright states that an examination of the Cherokee warrants demonstrates that they were legal and proper claims against the United States, according to their records, and recommends that appropriations be made by congress from Cherokee funds in the treasury, to pay all outstanding warrants in full. Continuing he says:

"A payment of Creek warrants is now in progress; there being no records whatever of their indebtedness, public notice was given requiring holders of all warrants to present them for examination. So far, warrants to the amount of about \$185,000 have been presented, but it is impossible to state how many more are outstanding. Many of those presented were improperly issued, being signed in the chief's name, though not by him as required by law. Many others were issued for which there appears to be no appropriation, and consequently cannot be paid, while others represent amounts due for tribal court officials' services rendered after October 1, at which time their courts were abolished by the Curtis bill, and the chief so notified. It has, therefore, required a large amount of time and labor to examine and ascertain the correctness of each warrant presented for payment.

"The total amount of warrants presented which cannot be paid aggregate \$2,800, approximately.

"I recommend that no more warrants be allowed to be issued and circulated by tribal authorities until submitted to and approved by the Indian agent or superintendent of schools.

"The present condition of the finances of these various nations demonstrates the necessity for their obtaining all revenue possible.

"As the Cherokee warrants draw six per cent while the nation only receives five per cent from the United States for interest on their funds invested, it would appear desirable that they be permitted to withdraw sufficient funds with which to pay all outstanding indebtedness.

"The Cherokee and Creek nations appropriated considerable amounts to pay members and expenses of their council meetings, besides large sums for other purposes, which while not necessary, must continue so long as their governments are permitted to remain in existence.

"The fact that these various nations appropriate large amounts annually without rendering any practical benefit to the people except for schools, should be sufficient argument for the desirability of discontinuing their national governments—especially if congress should make provision for supervision of schools in the Cherokee and Creek nations.

"The coal royalty supplies funds for schools in the Choctaw, and will also furnish sufficient revenue for schools in the Chickasaw nation hereafter.

#### SCHOOLS.

The superintendent of schools for the Indian Territory recently submitted a report to the honorable commissioner of Indian affairs recommending the adoption of certain changes in management of schools in the Indian Territory, particularly in the Creek and Cherokee nations, in which I fully concur:

"It is absolutely essential that all schools in the territory be placed under the supervision of the department. The various nations are liberal in making appropriations for education, but funds so appropriated have not always been properly or judiciously expended. There is also an entire absence of industrial training at any school, both boys and girls being instructed in school room work and music."

The Creek election took place yesterday, and while the returns are not in, it is generally conceded that Gen. Pleasant Porter is elected chief.

#### Announcement.

Willie Holsell College will open the term of 1899-1900 Tuesday, September 12. The faculty is composed of first-class teachers and first-class work will be done in the Primary, Preparatory, Academic, Music, Art and Education departments. Our charges are moderate. The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited. For additional information call on or address the president, THEO. F. BREWER, Vinita, I. T.

#### Springfield Fair Excursion.

The Frisco will run a special train to the Springfield fair on Sept. 7th. Round trip tickets will be sold for \$2.50 good to return on special train leaving Springfield at 8 p. m. Train will leave Vinita at 6 a. m., and arrive at Springfield at 11:05.

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